



NEWS RELEASE#

US Army Corps

of Engineers

St. Louis District
Wappapello Lake
Project Office

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For Release: Immediately

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WAPPAPELLO, MISSOURI – December 6, 2005: The gifts are unwrapped, the great feasts are over....Now, what should we do with the Christmas tree? You could just throw it away OR you could make a fish, bird, rabbit, or other small critter a happy home. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers offers a meaningful way to dispose of your tree and provide valuable habitat at the same time. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers at Wappapello Lake will be accepting Christmas trees from December 26 through January 16 at Chaonia Landing and Redman Creek boat ramps. Each drop-off location will be marked with a sign. When the trees are deposited at the collection site, they become the property of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for use in the replenishment of fish shelters, rabbit shelters, or other habitat programs at Wappapello Lake. However, if you have a favorite place to fish on the lake and would like to use these trees, you may obtain a Special Use Permit from the Wappapello Project Office.

Christmas trees are bundled together in small groups and submerged in the lake as designated fish shelters. These shelters provide fish with breeding areas, a resting place, and protection. They give young fish a safe space to feed on plankton and avoid being preyed upon by larger fish. Fish then have a better chance to reach maturity and provide a resource for anglers. New trees are added to select sites each year to maintain usefulness as cover. Christmas trees will be placed in field borders to serve as escape and resting cover for small animals like rabbits, quail, and song birds.

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If you would like more information or have questions or comments about Christmas tree fish shelters or placing fish shelters in the lake, please contact Natural Resources Specialist James Gracey or Park Ranger Eric Lemons at the Wappapello Lake Project Office at (573) 222-8562.